

**CLAIMS**

**We claim:**

1. A method for translating instant messages exchanged between two or  
5 more devices over a network by one or more users that communicate in different languages, the method comprising:
  - establishing a user profile indicating at least one user language and one or more translation preferences of the one or more users;
  - receiving a message as input composed by at least one of the users according to  
10 the user language;
  - translating the message from the user language to at least one different language corresponding to the one or more translation preferences; and
  - transmitting the message in translated form to at least one of the two or more devices.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing includes exchanging a user profile created by the one or more users between the two or more devices.

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3. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of exchanging includes storing information associated with the user profile by each of the two or more devices.

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4. The method of claim 3 wherein the information includes the one or more translation preferences.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving includes inputting 5 the message into a real-time communication service residing on the two or more devices.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving further includes sending a request to a content translation module to translate the message from the 10 user language to at least one different language.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the content translation module is located at a network address corresponding to the one or more translation preferences.

15 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the network address is shared amongst a plurality of devices operating in a distributed networking environment.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the network address corresponds to a single device.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting includes sending the message composed in at least one different language to one or more destination addresses.

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11. The method of claim 8 wherein the destination addresses correspond to the one or more translation preferences.

12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

13. A system for providing real-time communication over a network between two or more devices to support multiple languages, the system comprising:

10 at least one source device coupled to the network for transmitting a message composed according to a source language;

a content translation module having instructions for translating the message into a destination language; and

15 at least one destination device coupled to the network for receiving the message from the content translation module.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one source device further comprises: a real-time communication service for receiving a message as input composed according to the source language, the message being composed by a user of the source device.

20 15. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one source device transmits a user profile to the at least one destination device.

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16. The system of claim 15 wherein the user profile indicates the source language and one or more translation preferences.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein the content translation module is  
5 located at a network address corresponding to the one or more translation preferences.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the network address is shared amongst a plurality of devices operating in a distributed networking environment.

10 19. The system of claim 17 wherein the network address corresponds to a single device.

20. The system of claim 13 wherein the content translation module resides on the at least one source device.

15 21. The system of claim 13 wherein the content translation module resides on the at least one destination device.

22. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one destination device  
20 further comprises: a real-time communication service for receiving a message as input composed according to the destination language, the message being composed by a user of the destination device.

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23. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one destination device is located at a network address corresponding to the one or more translation preferences.

24. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one destination device  
5 transmits a user profile to the at least one source device.

25. The system of claim 15 wherein the user profile indicates the destination language and one or more translation preferences.

10 26. A method for translating instant messages exchanged between two or more devices over a network by one or more users that communicate in different languages, the method comprising:

receiving a message as input composed by at least one of the users according to a user language;

15 translating the message from the user language to at least one different language corresponding to one or more translation preferences; and

transmitting the message in translated form to at least one of the two or more devices.

20 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the step of receiving includes inputting the message into a real-time communication service residing on the two or more devices.

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28. The method of claim 26 wherein the step of receiving further includes sending a request to a content translation module to translate the message from the user language to at least one different language.

5 29. The method of claim 26 wherein the step of transmitting includes sending the message in translated from to one or more destination addresses.

10 30. The method of claim 29 wherein the destination addresses correspond to the one or more translation preferences indicated by the at least one of the two or more devices.

15 31. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 26.

20 32. A system for providing real-time communication over a network between two or more devices to support multiple languages, the system comprising:  
means for receiving a message composed by a user of a first device, the message being composed in a language familiar to the user;  
means for detecting the language used to compose the message; and  
means for translating the message into a language familiar to a user of a second device.

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33. The system of claim 32 further comprising:  
means for transmitting the message in translated form to a real-time  
communication device operating on the second device; and  
means for displaying the message in translated form to the user of the second  
device.

34. The system of claim 32 wherein said means for detecting comprises  
analyzing one or more translation preferences associated with the user of the first  
device.

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35. The system of claim 34 wherein said means for detecting comprises  
analyzing the structure and syntax of the message according to a language algorithm.

36. A system for providing real-time communication over a network  
between two or more devices to support multiple languages, the system comprising:  
means for composing a message according to a language familiar to the user of  
a first device;  
means for translating the message into a language familiar to a user of a second  
device; and  
means for transmitting the message to the user of the second device.

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